

## Summary

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Includes: Welcome from the Director of the **Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre**.



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#### The New Statistical Geography: Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)

Includes: Information about the new **Australian Statistical Geography Standard** and what impact it may have on time series.



#### The Changing Face of Wage and Salary Earners on Melbourne's Outskirts

Includes: A case study that explores the growth and characteristics of **Wage and salary earners** in Melton-Wyndham Statistical Subdivision.



#### Economy

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Includes: An update on the **2011 Agricultural Census**, plus **Agricultural Commodities, Australia** and **Motor Vehicle Census, Australia**.



#### Environment and Energy

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#### Other News and Contacts

Includes: Information about the **Australian Community Indicators Network**, updated **Regional @ a Glance** web pages and the updated **Glossary of Statistical Geography Terminology**.

## Welcome from the Director



### WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR

#### WHAT'S NEW IN REGIONAL STATISTICS

Welcome to the latest edition of the 'What's New in Regional Statistics' newsletter.

There has been a lot of interest in regional information over the last year, and our regional statistics team have been engaging with a range of data users to provide information and advice on regional statistics. The demand for regional statistics is coming from all levels of government and from communities. We have therefore given more time to providing presentations to interested government and research groups, such as the Local Government Managers Association and the Australian and New Zealand Regional Sciences Association International.

We are keen to be involved in presenting to forums that could help to promote the use and development of regional statistics, and we would welcome requests from various community, industry or government groups using regional data. Please be in touch with us via our email address, [regional.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:regional.statistics@abs.gov.au), or call me on (08) 8237 7402.

### What's in this issue?

This issue contains three interesting articles for users of regional statistics. The first feature article, on the 2011 Census of Population and Housing, highlights a rich range of statistics that are collected during the Census and provides information on the dissemination of 2011 Census data.

The second article, The New Statistical Geography: Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) discusses the reasons for implementing the ASGS, and what the ABS is doing to support time series data.

A third article, The Changing Face of Wage and Salary Earners on Melbourne's Outskirts illustrates a way to use data from *Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas*. It provides a case study on the Melton-Wyndham region exploring how Wage and salary earner characteristics, such as income, sex, age and occupation have changed over time.

Other information in this newsletter is grouped by category. Economy presents highlights from Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits as well as Labour Force, Australia and House Price Indexes, Eight Capital Cities. Under Population and People, you will find key data from the recent releases of Births and Deaths data, as well as Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2009-10.

There is an Agricultural flavour to this issue's Industry section, with a write-up on the 2011 Agricultural Census, as well as highlights from Agricultural Commodities, Australia and information on Tourist Accommodation, December 2010. In the Environment and Energy section of this issue, you will find information on the Great Barrier Reef Region Land Account, which shows how ABS data can be accessed for areas using a Google Earth interface, and information on the recent release of Water Use on Australian Farms.

We hope that you enjoy the contents of this issue and find them to be of interest. We welcome any feedback and comments you may have.

Lisa Conolly

Director  
Regional Statistics Branch

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## 2011 Census of Population and Housing



### 2011 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING

The Census of Population and Housing will be held on 9 August this year. Census teams across Australia within the ABS are gearing up to count the approximately 22 million people in Australia that night, using a contingent of 43,000 Australian citizens or permanent residents to help achieve this, hired within their local communities.

The Australian Census is a massive logistical exercise and pays dividends in the rich data-set it provides governments, businesses and members of the public for the years following release.

We can determine from the Census an up-to-date set of information on a vast range of statistics including:

- The current population of Australia
- Key characteristics of small population groups and the dwellings they live in
- The country of birth of Australian citizens or permanent residents

- The proportion of Australians with Indigenous heritage and in which areas these population groups are concentrated
- The proportion of Australians with non-anglo ethnic backgrounds and in which areas these population groups are concentrated

While a vast majority of Australians will find out about the Census from mainstream sources, such as television, radio, print or online, there are some who are unlikely to find out in this way, who still need to be on a Census form.

These groups include:

- Homeless people or rough sleepers
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse groups, including those who have arrived as refugees since the last Census
- Indigenous Australians living in remote communities
- Australians who work for mining companies as fly-in-fly-out workers and will be at their work site on Census night
- People who work on ships or offshore oil rigs
- People working in the Australian Antarctic Territories
- Tourists visiting Australia from overseas on 9 August
- Patients within hospitals and aged care centres
- Prisoners

In addition there are people who have become increasingly difficult to access because of their type of accommodation, such as those living in secure apartment buildings, where the Collector is unable to access individual front doors.

For each of these groups special strategies are deployed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics to ensure the Australian Census counts everyone in Australia on Census night.

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### **eCensus - a fast, easy and secure alternative**

In 2011, the ABS hopes to build on the success of the 2006 eCensus pilot, an option that provides respondents with an alternative to the traditional paper form. The eCensus application has been designed to work on commonly used computer technology and be accessible for everyone. It should only take about 24 minutes to complete the eCensus form for an individual, plus ten minutes for each additional person.

The eCensus website will be open from 28 July 2011 and although it is possible to complete the eCensus from that point onwards, it should be completed on Census night. It is expected that 25% of the population (and hopefully up to 40%) will choose the eCensus option. The ABS has taken measures to ensure that there is plenty of reserve capacity to cope with the anticipated traffic.

For further reading, see the Census of Population and Housing page on the ABS website or [How Australia takes a Census, 2011](#) (cat. no. 2903.0).

### **Outcomes from the 2011 Census Output Geography Discussion Paper, 2011**

On 22 February, 2011, the ABS published Census of Population and Housing: Outcomes from the 2011 Census Output Geography Discussion Paper, 2011 (cat. no. 2911.0.55.003). This summarises plans for output from the 2011 Census and was a follow-up to Discussion Paper: Census of Population and Housing - ABS Views on 2011 Census Output Geography (cat. no. 2911.0.55.002).

The paper confirmed that the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Statistical Local Area geography will be supported as a transitional unit for 2011 Census data; however, 2016 Census data will only be available under the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) areas. Additionally, the ABS will continue to provide a wide range of census data for Local Government Areas, including Place of Work, Address 1 Year Ago and Address 5 Years Ago. Data for Local Government Areas will continue to be supported.

Community Profiles received a substantial amount of feedback; particularly, the Time Series Profile and the Indigenous Profile. The Time Series Profile will contain 2001, 2006 and 2011 Census data. They will be available for ASGS Statistical Areas 2, 3 and 4, as well as Local Government Areas, States/Territories, Australia and the ASGC-defined Statistical Local Areas.

The Indigenous Profile will contain Census data relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, with some possibilities for comparison with the non-Indigenous population. Indigenous Profiles will now be available for an expanded range of geographies. They were originally proposed to be available for Australia, State, Capital City, Remoteness Area, Local Government Area and the Indigenous Structure of the ASGS, but will now also be available for Statistical Area levels 2, 3 and 4 and for Statistical Local Areas.

The paper also includes information about Estimated Resident Population, 2011 Census Output Geography, and ASGS implementation. A particularly useful feature for Census data users is the section, 'Products by Geographic Availability', which shows the final range of products that will be available for the various levels of ABS and non-ABS geography.

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## The New Statistical Geography: Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)



### THE NEW STATISTICAL GEOGRAPHY - AUSTRALIAN STATISTICAL GEOGRAPHY STANDARD (ASGS)

Why is the ASGS being introduced?

Regions of the ASGS

What impact will the change have on time series?

What will ABS do to support time series?

Release of the ASGS

Further information

From July 2011 the ABS will progressively replace the current Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) with the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). The ASGS will be used for the 2011 Census of Population and Housing and progressively from 2011 in other series.

### WHY IS THE ASGS BEING INTRODUCED?

The ASGS is being introduced as the new statistical geography as it addresses some of the shortcomings of the ASGC in that:

- it brings all the geographic regions used by the ABS into the one framework
- it is more stable, the ABS structures will remain stable between Censuses; unlike the ASGC regions which were reviewed annually
- the regions at each level of the ASGS ABS structures are more consistent in population size
- the regions at each level of the ASGS ABS structures are optimised for the statistical data to be released for them
- the Main Structure Statistical Area (SA) units reflect gazetted localities based on the idea of a functional area, which will result in more meaningful regions
- it is based on Mesh Blocks and can therefore support more accurate statistics for a range of commonly used administrative regions such as Postcodes and electoral divisions

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### REGIONS OF THE ASGS

The ASGS brings all the regions used by the ABS to output data under the one umbrella. They are divided into two broad categories:

1. ABS structures, those regions which are defined and maintained by the ABS.
2. Non-ABS structures, those regions defined and maintained by other organisations, but for which the ABS releases data.

The ABS structures are a hierarchy of regions specifically developed for the release of particular ABS statistics described below.

## ABS Regions

**Mesh Blocks** are the smallest area geographical region. There are 347,627 covering the whole of Australia. They broadly identify land use such as: residential, commercial, agriculture and parks etc. Residential and agricultural Mesh Blocks usually contain 30 to 60 households. Mesh Blocks are the building block for all the larger regions of the ASGS. Only limited Census data, total population and dwelling counts will be released at the mesh block level.

**Statistical Areas Level 1 (SA1s)** will be the smallest region for which a wide range of Census data will be released. They will have an average population of about 400. They will be built from whole Mesh Blocks. There are 54,805 covering the whole of Australia.

**Statistical Areas Level 2 (SA2s)** will have an average population of about 10,000, with a minimum population of 3,000 and a maximum of 25,000. The SA2s are the regions for which the majority of ABS sub-state non-census data, for example Estimated Resident Population, will be released. There are 2,214 SA2s, built from whole SA1s.

**Statistical Areas Level 3 (SA3s)** are a medium sized region with a population of 30,000 to 130,000. They represent the functional areas of regional cities and large urban transport and service hubs. They will be built from whole SA2s.

**Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4s)** will be used for the release of Labour Force Statistics.

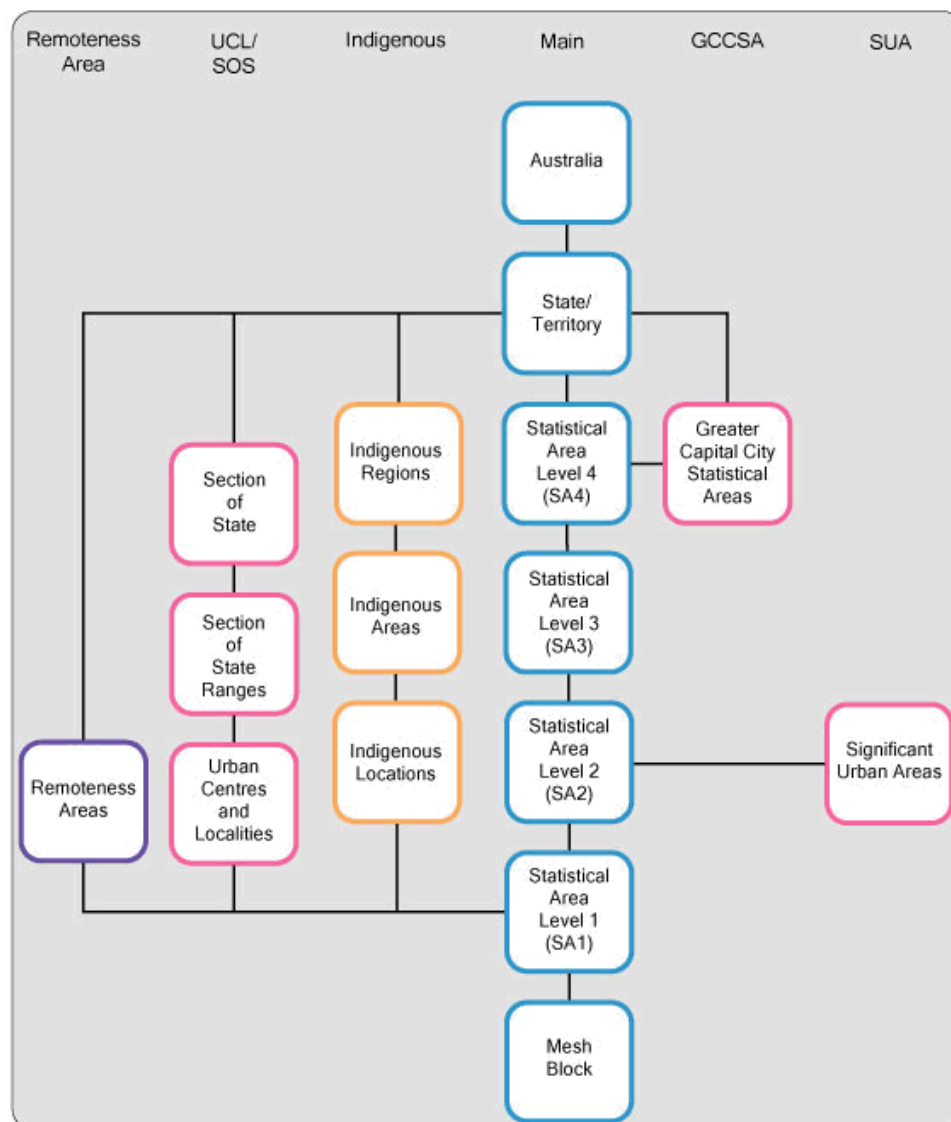
**Urban Centres/Localities, Section of State and Remoteness Areas** will define the built up area of Australia's towns and cities and will be broadly comparable to previous Censuses.

**Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (GCCSA)** define the Capital Cities and their socio-economic extent.

**Significant Urban Areas** will define the major cities and towns of Australia with a population over 10,000. This includes both the built up area, any likely medium term expansion and immediately associated peri-urban development.

**Indigenous Regions, Areas and Localities** are designed for the presentation of Indigenous data. At the Indigenous Locality level it is possible to identify data on particular Indigenous Communities.

The diagram below summarises the overall ABS structures of the ASGS -

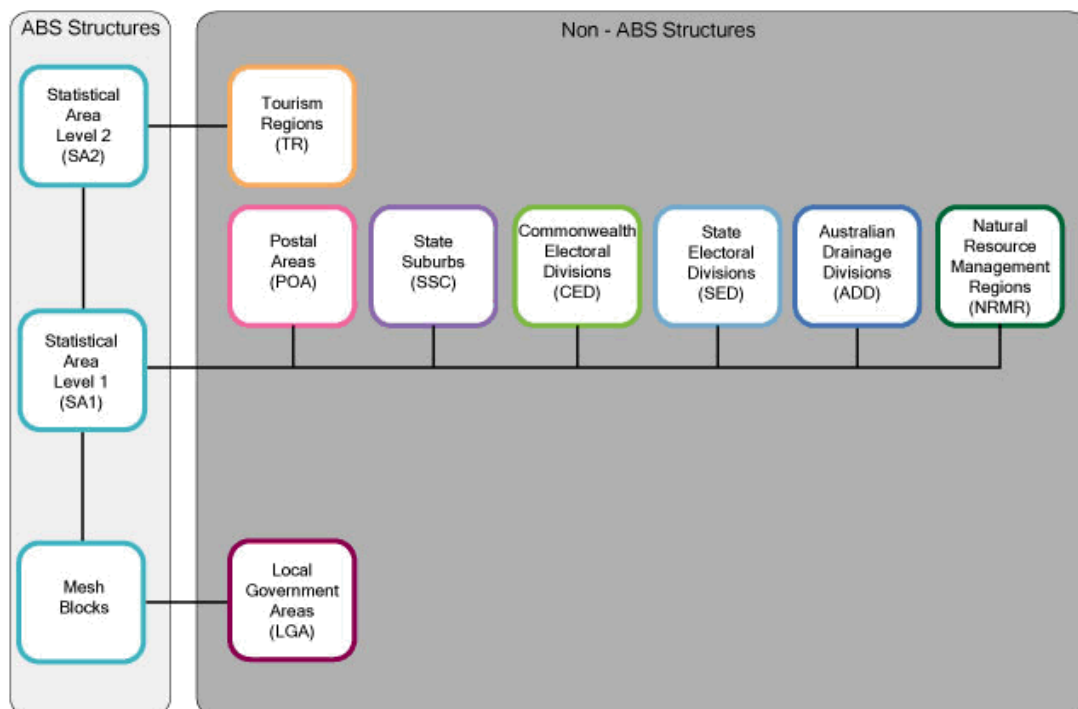


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## Non-ABS Regions

Non-ABS structures will be approximated or built directly from Mesh Blocks, SA1s or SA2s. The Non-ABS structures include such important regions as: Local Government Areas (LGAs), postal areas, state gazetted suburbs and electoral divisions. LGAs remain part of the ASGS and the ABS will continue to support LGAs with the data it currently provides.

The diagram below summarises the overall non-ABS structures of the ASGS -



## WHAT IMPACT WILL THE CHANGE HAVE ON TIME SERIES?

While the new regions will give a better platform for the analysis of time series into the future, the change over to the ASGS will cause a break in time series for Census Collection Districts, Statistical Local Areas, Statistical Subdivisions, Statistical Divisions and Labour Force regions.

It will have a significant impact on data for 'capital cities'. In the ASGC, Capital City Statistical Divisions (SD) were used as the boundaries for capital cities. There is no equivalent region to SD in the ASGS however the capital cities will be defined by the new GCCSA which represent the cities socio-economic extent. A detailed discussion of the new design of capital cities can be found in Australian Statistical Geography Standard: Design of the Statistical Areas Level 4, Capital Cities and Statistical Areas Level 3, May 2010 (cat. no. 1216.0.55.003).

The change to ASGS will have some impact on Remoteness Areas, Urban Centres and Localities and the Indigenous Region Structure. The impact should not seriously affect comparability of data over time, but users undertaking detailed analysis of this data need to be aware of the change.

It will have very little impact on data held at the LGA level or other non-ABS structures, as these will be approximated by aggregating whole meshblocks.

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## WHAT WILL THE ABS DO TO SUPPORT TIME SERIES?

The ABS will support time series in several ways:

- A time series of population estimates will be available on the new geography. The length of the time series will depend on the geographic level and the type of estimate. For more information on sub-state population estimates on the ASGS see Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2009-10 (cat. no. 3218.0).
- 2006 and 2001 Census data will be available on SA2s, SA3s, SA4s and SLAs and LGAs in the Time Series Profiles along with 2011 data. Plans for Census data output are outlined in Census of Population and Housing: Outcomes from the 2011 Census Output Geography Discussion Paper, 2011 (cat. no. 2911.0.55.003).
- Building Approvals, Australia, Apr 2011 (cat. no. 8731.0) includes a feature article with information on the implementation of the ASGS for Building Approvals statistics.
- Information about the release of other ABS statistics will progressively become available.
- Advice on the ASGS and its impact is available.
- The ABS will provide a variety of correspondence files (used to transform data from one geography to another). For more information on these please go to the ABS Geography Portal.



## RELEASE OF THE ASGS

The ABS published the ASGS manual with the boundaries, labels and codes for SAs 1-4 and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas in December 2010, see Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2011 (cat.no. 1270.0.55.001)

The Non-ABS structures will be released in mid 2011; this is to ensure that the Census is released on the most up to date boundaries available. Urban Centres and Localities, Section of State, Remoteness and Significant Urban Areas will be released in 2012 as they require an analysis of Census data to be developed.

The regions defined in the ABS structures will not change until the next Census in 2016, although the Non-ABS structures will be updated annually.

The ASGS will come into effect on the 1 July 2011.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information please follow the link to the ABS Geography Portal. If you have any questions regarding the ASGS please email [geography@abs.gov.au](mailto:geography@abs.gov.au).

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# The Changing Face of Wage and Salary Earners on Melbourne's Outskirts



## THE CHANGING FACE OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS ON MELBOURNE'S OUTSKIRTS

Introduction

Business growth

What Wage and salary earners data can tell us about a region

Changes in Wage and salary earners characteristics from 2003-04 to 2007-08

Changes in Wage and salary income

Occupation changes from 2003-04 to 2007-08

Examining occupation in conjunction with income

## INTRODUCTION

The urban areas on the outskirts of our major cities are of interest for regional policy, planning and service delivery, as they are often where large or rapid population growth occurs. The Australian Government is developing policy responses based on a concern that this growth 'will put pressure on existing infrastructure systems, facilities and services within capital cities' (Infrastructure Australia, State of Australian Cities 2010, p. 32). This article explores one fast growing region in outer Melbourne (in the state of Victoria), using data from Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2007-08 (cat. no. 5673.0.55.003).

Melton-Wyndham had the largest growth in estimated resident population of any Statistical Subdivision (SSD) in Melbourne Statistical Division (SD) and in Australia from 2003-04 to 2007-08, reaching 225,815 persons by 2007-08. This was an increase of 51,519 persons (29.6%) and an average annual increase of 6.7%. This compared with average annual increases of 1.9% for Melbourne SD, 1.7% for Victoria and 1.7% for Australia in the same period. Melton-Wyndham SSD had a large growth in the number of Wage and salary earners during the same period.



The region is located on the western outskirts of the capital city of Melbourne (see Map 1) and is within commuting distance to both the Melbourne Central Business District and Geelong.

**Map 1: MELTON-WYNDHAM SSD**

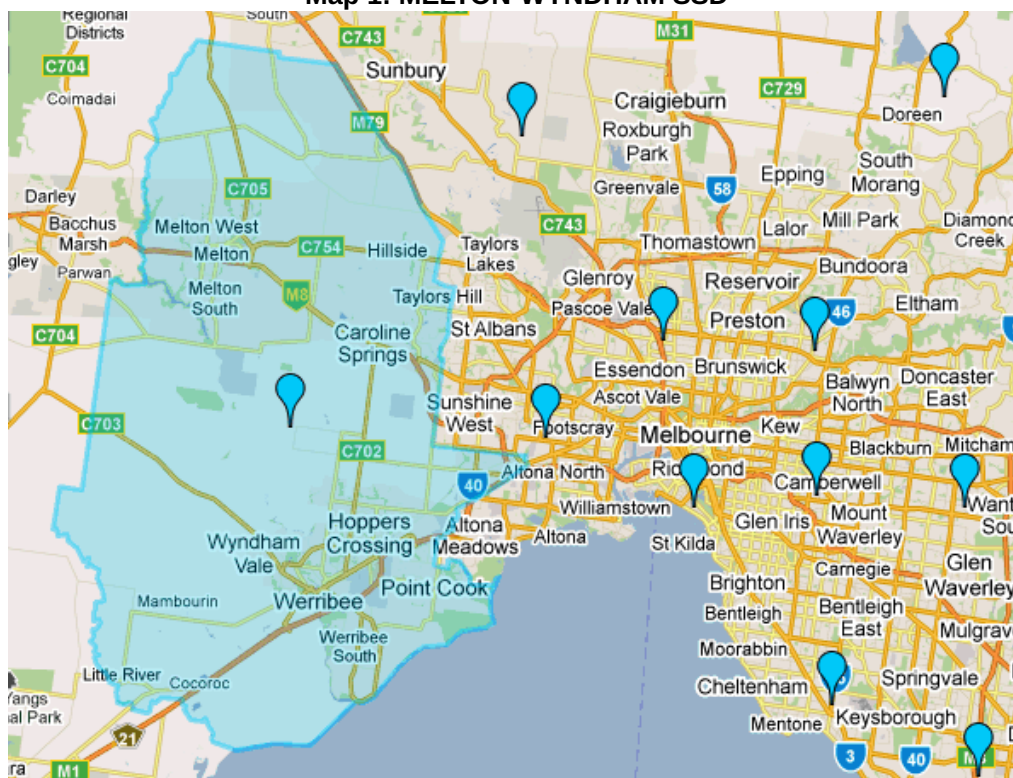


Image sourced from the National Regional Profile

## BUSINESS GROWTH

The following information refers to businesses that were based in Melton-Wyndham SSD, which is a mixture of rural community areas (such as the Melton township) and suburban fringe areas. From 2003-04 to 2006-07, the number of businesses increased, although some industries grew faster than others (National Regional Profile, cat. no. 1379.0.55.001).

Two of the fastest growing industries included Finance and insurance, which grew on average by 8.2% per year, and Accommodation, cafes and restaurants, which grew by an annual average of 11.5%. It is possible that the growth in Finance and insurance provided jobs within the SSD for Professionals, Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers and other administrative workers, occupation groups that all experienced large and rapid growth. Likewise, it is possible that the rapid growth in the service industry provided work locally for Intermediate Service Workers. In contrast, the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry grew by an average of 3.1% annually, which was a small growth rate compared to other industries in the region. In 2005-06, gross value of agricultural production in the region was \$91.8 million. Agriculture in Melton-Wyndham in 2005-06 was represented by various commodities including 7,809.8 hectares of Cereals for grain and 3,133.1 hectares of Vegetables for human consumption. This region also had 104,048 Sheep and lambs, 6,887 Meat cattle and 1,276 Pigs. (National Regional Profile, cat. no. 1379.0.55.001).

By 2006-07, businesses in the Construction and Property and Business Services industries represented the largest proportion of businesses in Melton-Wyndham. Construction, with 2,712 businesses, accounted for 24.7% of the total number of businesses in the region, and Property & Business Services (with 2,274 businesses) accounted for 20.7%. This compares with the Construction industry in Victoria, which accounted for 15.4% of the total number of businesses in 2006-07, and the Property and Business Services Industry at State level, which accounted for 25.5% of businesses. This contrast highlights the strength of the Construction industry in Melton-Wyndham compared with the average for the rest of the state; this is likely to have been fuelled by the demands of a larger and rapidly growing population in this region in a similar time period.

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## WHAT WAGE AND SALARY EARNER DATA CAN TELL US ABOUT A REGION

Wage and salary earner data can assist in understanding aspects of regional labour markets and aspects of regional economic wellbeing. Wage and salary earners are part of the 'employed' in the labour market (Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods, Apr 2007, cat. no. 6102.0.55.001) and their income contributes to economic wellbeing in regions (Standards for Income Variables, 2010, cat. no. 1287.0).

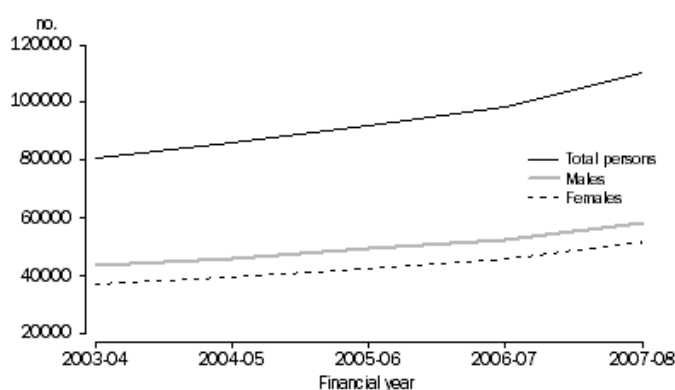
Data from Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2007-08 (cat. no. 5673.0.55.003) include age, sex, income range and occupation. These data can assist planners and service deliverers in understanding whether the Wage and salary earners who live in this region have particular characteristics, and whether those characteristics have changed over time. Analysis of occupations in Melton-Wyndham, for example, shows higher average annual growth rates of Professionals and Associate Professionals in this period compared with the growth rate of all Wage and salary earners in Melton-Wyndham SSD.

These Wage and salary data provide information on the characteristics of Wage and salary earners living in Melton-Wyndham SSD; however, it is outside the scope of this article to analyse whether they worked locally within the SSD, in Melbourne, Geelong or elsewhere.

## CHANGE IN WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS CHARACTERISTICS FROM 2003-04 TO 2007-08

From 2003-04 to 2007-08, Melton-Wyndham SSD had one of the largest increases in Wage and salary earners for SSDs in Australia, with an average annual increase of 8.2%. This was an increase from 80,530 to 110,219 Wage and salary earners (see Graph 1) and compares with an average annual increase of 3.7% in Victoria.

**Graph 1: WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, By Sex - Melton-Wyndham SSD**

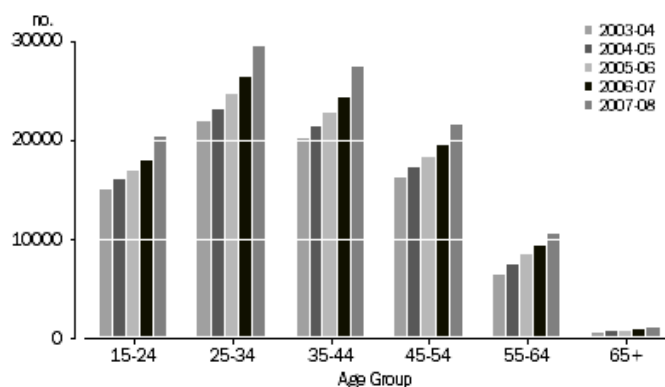


## Changes in age and sex

The split between male and female Wage and salary earners in Melton-Wyndham was relatively consistent from 2003-04 to 2007-08. In 2007-08, 58,589 (53.2%) of Wage and salary earners were male, whilst 51,591 (46.8%) were female. This region had a slightly higher proportion of Wage and salary earners that were male than Victoria, (51.8% male and 48.3% female) in 2007-08.

Similarly, the distribution of Wage and salary earners between age groups varied little in the period from 2003-04 to 2007-08. There was growth across all age groups in Melton-Wyndham during this period (see Graph 2). Those aged 25 - 44 constituted just over half of Melton-Wyndham's Wage and salary earners in this period, and 51.5% in 2007-08, compared with 46.5% of Wage and salary earners in Victoria.

**Graph 2: WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, By Age - Melton-Wyndham SSD**



In each of the five Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) that make up Melton-Wyndham SSD, the proportion of Wage and salary earners in each age group were generally similar to that of the SSD. However, in Melton - Bal SLA (which is located in the North-West of the SSD, encompassing the Melton township and surrounding rural areas), those aged 15-24 represented slightly more of the SLA's Wage and salary earners than in the other SLAs in 2007-08. The region also had a smaller proportion of Wage and salary earners in the 25 - 34 and 35 - 44 age groups and a larger proportion in the 55 - 64 age group compared with the other SLAs (see Table 1).

**Table 1: PROPORTION OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS BY AGE GROUP - By SLA, 2007-08**

Age Group	Melton - East	Melton - Bal	Wyndham - North	Wyndham - South	Wyndham - West	Melton-Wyndham SSD
	%	%	%	%	%	%
15 - 24	17.9	21.5	18.3	16.4	17.1	18.5
25 - 34	30.2	24.0	25.7	27.8	27.8	26.7
35 - 44	26.2	20.3	25.5	26.7	25.9	24.8
45 - 54	17.4	20.7	20.2	19.2	19.0	19.5
55 - 64	7.8	12.5	9.4	8.7	9.3	9.6
65+	0.6	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.0

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## CHANGES IN WAGE AND SALARY INCOME

The average income earned from Wages and salaries in Melton-Wyndham steadily increased between 2003-04 and 2007-08, from \$36,738 to \$42,889. This was higher than the average for Victoria (\$42,782) but lower than the averages for Melbourne SD (\$44,837) and Australia (\$43,921) in 2007-08.

The average annual growth rate of average Wage and salary income from 2003-04 to 2007-08 in Melton-Wyndham was 4.0%, compared with 3.7% for Melbourne SD and 3.8% for Victoria. There were very different rates of growth in the number of Wage and salary earners in each income range, with the fastest growth in the highest income ranges (Table 2).

**Table 2: GROWTH IN WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, By Income range - Melton-Wyndham SSD**

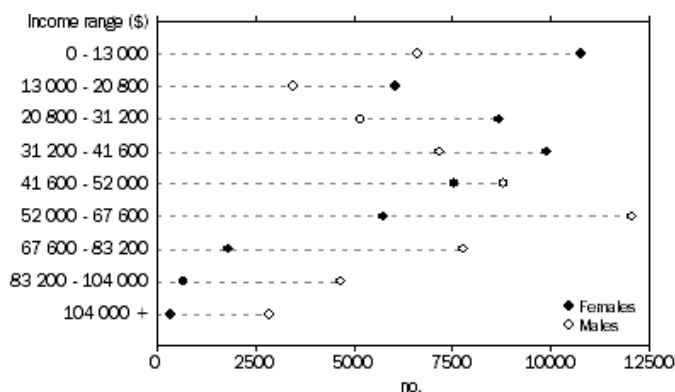
Income range	2003-04	2007-08	Change	Average annual change
	no.	no.	2003-04 to 2007-08	2003-04 to 2007-08
			no.	%
\$0 to less than \$13 200	14 084	17 374	3 290	5.4
\$13 000 to less than \$20 800	8 210	9 524	1 314	3.8
\$20 800 to less than \$31 200	12 903	13 890	987	1.9
\$31 200 to less than \$41 600	14 900	17 066	2 166	3.5
\$41 600 to less than \$52 000	12 412	16 346	3 934	7.1
\$52 000 to less than \$67 600	10 521	17 818	7 297	14.1
\$67 600 to less than \$83 200	4 514	9 595	5 081	20.8
\$83 200 to less than \$104 000	1 971	5 343	3 372	28.3
\$104 000 or more	1 013	3 227	2 214	33.6

## Sex and income in 2007-08

In 2007-08, only 5.5% of female Wage and salary earners (2,855) were in the top three income ranges (earning \$67,600 or more), compared with 26.1% of males (15,310). Graph 3 shows that there were more male than female Wage and salary earners in all of the income ranges from \$41,600 and above.

Nearly half of female Wage and salary earners (49.5%) in 2007-08 had incomes of less than \$31,200. These data are for all Wage and salary earners and do not take into account part-time, casual or temporary work patterns.

**Graph 3: WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, By Income range and Sex - Melton-Wyndham SSD, 2007-08**



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## OCCUPATION CHANGES FROM 2003-04 TO 2007-08

From 2003-04 to 2007-08, the number of Wage and salary earners in all Major occupation groups grew, although the growth rates of different occupations varied. The fastest growing occupation groups in Melton-Wyndham SSD were Associate Professionals and Professionals, with average annual growth rates of 12.1% and 11.6% respectively. At the Melbourne SD level, the two fastest growing Major occupation groups were also Associate Professionals (an average of 7.8% annually) and Professionals (an average of 5.7% annually); however the growth was not as rapid.

The different growth rates in Melton-Wyndham resulted in changes in the proportions of each occupation group, with Professionals moving from third to second largest number of Wage and salary earners by 2007-08.

The remainder of this occupation analysis looks at the differences in Wage and salary earners' occupation groups in terms of income and growth.

### Major occupation groups in 2007-08

In 2007-08, the Major occupation group Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers represented the largest proportion of Melton-Wyndham's Wage and salary earners at 19.0% (20,944 persons). The next largest Major occupation groups were Professionals, followed by Labourers and Related Workers, which represented 13.2% and 10.7% of the region's Wage and salary earners respectively.

At the state and Melbourne SD levels, the data show a different occupational mix. Victorian Professionals comprised the largest proportion of Wage and salary earners at 20.0%, whereas Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers followed, representing 17.2% of Wage and salary earners. Managers and Administrators were the third largest group of Wage and salary earners in Victoria, making up 10.0% of the State total. In Melbourne SD, Professionals accounted for 21.0% of the total number of Wage and salary earners, which was the greatest proportion. Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers accounted for 17.5% of the total, while Managers and Administrators were the third largest group, representing 10.6%. These proportions were similar to those in Victoria.

### Growth in Major occupation groups

The Major occupation group that proportionally contributed the most to the overall growth in Melton-Wyndham's Wage and salary earners in 2003-04 to 2007-08 was Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers, representing 20.0% of the growth in Wage and salary earners, which was an increase of 5,930 persons (see Table 3). This was followed by Professionals (17.4% of the overall growth) and Intermediate Production and Transport Workers (9.9%).

**Table 3: WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS GROWTH RATES - By Major occupation group, 2003-04 to 2007-08**

	2003-04	2007-08	Change 2003-04 to 2007-08 (Melton-Wyndham)	Average annual change (Melton-Wyndham)	Average annual change (Victoria)
	no.	no.	no.	%	%
Associate Professionals	4 688	7 393	2 705	12.1	7.2
Professionals	9 412	14 583	5 171	11.6	5.2
Intermediate Clerical, Sales & Service Workers	15 014	20 944	5 930	8.7	4.6
Managers & Administrators	6 757	9 277	2 520	8.3	3.7
Not Stated	7 080	9 563	2 483	7.8	1.0
Intermediate Production & Transport Workers	8 535	11 457	2 922	7.6	3.1
Labourers & Related Workers	8 891	11 805	2 914	7.3	1.9
Elementary Clerical, Sales & Service Workers	8 270	10 920	2 650	7.2	4.0
Tradespersons & Related Workers	9 707	11 710	2 003	4.8	2.2
Advanced Clerical & Service Workers	2 166	2 524	358	3.9	-0.2

The number of Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers in Melton-Wyndham increased, on average, 8.7% per year from 2003-04 to 2007-08. Approximately 77.0% of the people in this major occupation group were female in each year. In 2007-08 more than half of Wage and salary earners employed as Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers were specifically employed as Intermediate Clerical Workers. This sub-major occupation group accounted for 58.4% of Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers and 11.1% of the region's total wage and salary earners.

The number of Professionals (which includes five sub-major occupation groups, ranging from science, engineering and business to health and education) increased an average of 11.6% annually over the same period. There were slightly more females than males in this group, with 55.3% being female in 2007-08. The Sub-major group, Business and Information Professionals (which includes accountants, marketing and computing professionals) was the fastest growing at an annual average rate of 15.5%. In 2007-08, they represented 33.8% of Professionals, followed by the Sub-major groups, Health (22.1%) and Education (20.4%) Professionals.

The number of Intermediate Production and Transport Workers (who work in manufacturing, mining, construction and road and rail transport) grew by an average of 7.6% annually from 2003-04 to 2007-08. Of the 11,457 Wage and salary earners in this group in 2007-08, 88.5% were male. The Sub-major group Road and Rail Transport Drivers represented 35.8% of Intermediate Production and Transport Workers, while 33.8% were classified as Other Intermediate Production and Transport Workers (e.g. Intermediate Mining and Construction Workers and miscellaneous Intermediate Production and Transport Workers).

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## EXAMINING OCCUPATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH INCOME

For the purposes of the following sections, "lower income" encompasses the bottom three income brackets (up to \$31,200 per year). "Higher income" refers to the top three income brackets, ranging from \$67,600 to \$104,000 or more. These definitions of lower and higher income do not encompass the three middle salary ranges and do not include the average and median salary amounts for the region, State or Australia.

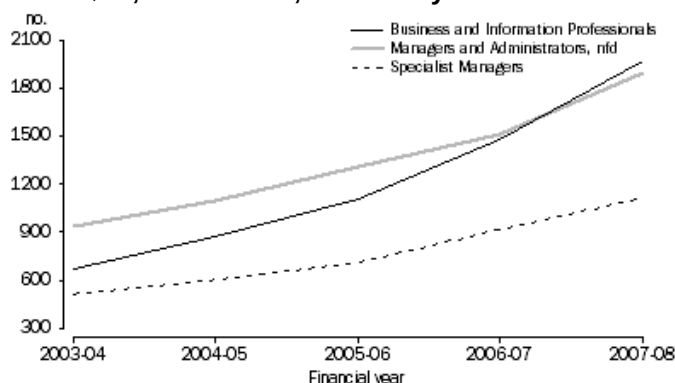
The data related to Sub-major occupation groups and income show that although all types of Wage and salary earners in Melton-Wyndham increased, more people earning higher incomes were employed in professional or management occupations. Additionally, Wage and salary earners in the lower income range were in the clerical, sales and service-related occupations.

### Higher income

Of the 18,116 persons earning Wages and salaries of \$67,600 or more in Melton-Wyndham in 2007-08, the top three Sub-major occupation groups represented by these higher income earners were: Business and Information Professionals (10.9% of the Wage and salary earners in the top income brackets, or 1,968 persons), Managers and Administrators, nfd (10.5% or 1,893 persons) and Specialist Managers (6.1% or 1,112 persons). (See Graph 4). These sub groups are part of the Major occupation groups of Professionals and Managers and Administrators, which were also two of the top four fastest growing Major occupation

groups in Melton-Wyndham SSD from 2003-04 to 2007-08.

**Graph 4: GROWTH IN TOP 3 SUB-MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUPS - Wage and salary earners earning \$67,600 or more, Melton-Wyndham SSD**



The number of Business and Information Professionals earning \$67,600 or more grew at an average annual rate of 31.0% (an increase of 1,299 from 2003-04 to 2007-08). The number of Managers and Administrators, nfd grew on average by 19.2% each year; this equated to 955 more people in 2007-08 compared with 2003-04. The number of Specialist Managers increased by an average of 21.2% per year, which was an increase of 597.

### Lower income

In 2007-08, 40,697 Wage and salary earners in Melton-Wyndham earned up to \$31,200, which was more than double the number of persons earning \$67,600 or more.

The most common Sub-major occupation groups represented in this low income group in Melton-Wyndham SSD were: Elementary Sales Workers (who at 6,833 represented 16.8% of the total number of Wage and salary earners in this range), Intermediate Clerical Workers (4,894 or 12%) and Intermediate Service Workers (4,279 or 10.5%).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more Wage and salary data related to Melton-Wyndham SSD and other regions, see Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2007-08 (cat. no. 5673.0.55.003). This publication contains detailed data from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) relating to Wage and salary earners on a range of geographic levels for 2003-04 to 2007-08. Data are available by age, sex, occupation and income for Local Government Areas, Statistical Local Areas, Statistical Subdivisions, Statistical Divisions, states/territories and Australia.

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## Economy



### ECONOMY

### RECENT RELEASES

Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, May 2011  
Housing Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, March 2011  
Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, Jun 2007 to Jun 2009  
Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2007-08  
Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2007-08

### LABOUR FORCE, AUSTRALIA, DETAILED, QUARTERLY, MAY 2011

Released on 16 June 2011, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, May 2011 (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) provides a range of quarterly Excel spreadsheets and SuperTABLE datacubes. The spreadsheets contain broad level data covering all the major items of the Labour Force Survey in time series format, including seasonally adjusted and trend estimates. The datacubes contain more detailed and cross classified original data than the spreadsheets.

The following data will be available by Capital city-Balance of State/Territory:

- Employed Persons by Sex, Industry, Hours Worked, August 1994 onwards
- Employed Persons by Usual Hours Worked, Sex, Industry
- Employed Persons by Hours Worked in Main Job, Sex, Industry

Estimates of employment by industry, occupation, sex, status in employment and hours worked are also available at State level for analysis.

## HOUSE PRICE INDEXES: EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES, MARCH 2011

House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, Mar 2011 (cat. no. 6416.0) was released on 2 May 2011 and provides estimates of changes in housing prices in each of the eight capital cities of Australia. The information is presented in the form of price indexes constructed separately for established houses and for project homes.

Key findings from this release include:

- Preliminary estimates show that the price index for established houses for the weighted average of the eight capital cities decreased 0.2% in the year to March quarter 2011.
- The price index for established houses for the weighted average of the eight capital cities decreased 1.7% in the March quarter 2011 (see table below).

Established house prices	Dec Qtr 10 to Mar Qtr 11 % change	Mar Qtr 10 to Mar Qtr 11 % change
<b>Weighted average of eight capital cities</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Sydney	-1.8	0.8
Melbourne	-2.5	1.1
Brisbane	-2.5	-3.6
Adelaide	-1.0	0.9
Perth	0.5	-3.2
Hobart	0.4	0.6
Darwin	-1.0	0.5
Canberra	-0.4	1.1

Data for each capital city can be found in the publication and Time Series Spreadsheets under the Downloads tab.

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## COUNTS OF AUSTRALIAN BUSINESSES, INCLUDING ENTRIES AND EXITS, JUN 2007 TO JUN 2009

Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, Jun 2007 to Jun 2009 (cat. no. 8165.0) was released on 21 October 2010 and presents business counts by industry, main state or territory, type of legal organisation, institutional sector, employment size ranges and annual turnover size ranges. Business survival rates are also reported. Data are sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register.

Some key findings in this release include:

- There were 2,051,085 actively trading businesses in Australia as at June 2009.
- The growth rate in the number of businesses declined slightly from 2007-08 (-0.1%) to 2008-09 (-1.0%)
- At June 2009 Construction had the greatest number of businesses with 342,436 (16.7% of the total). Other large industries included Professional, scientific and technical services (11.3%); Rental, hiring and real estate services (10.6%) and Agriculture, forestry and fishing (9.9%).



Data on Businesses by Industry Division by Employment Size Ranges and Businesses by Industry Division by Annual Turnover Size Ranges can be accessed by Statistical Local Area and Statistical Division.

## **WAGE AND SALARY EARNER STATISTICS FOR SMALL AREAS, TIME SERIES, 2003-04 TO 2007-08**

Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2007-08 (cat. no. 5673.0.55.003) was released on 6 October 2010 and provides a five-year time series of data on the characteristics of wage and salary earners such as age, sex, occupation and wage and salary income. Data are compiled from the Australian Taxation Office's Individual Income Tax Return Database.

Some key findings in this release include:

- On average, Australians earned \$43,921 in Wages and salaries in 2007-08; up from \$42,081 in the previous year.
- Of all states and territories, the Australian Capital Territory recorded the highest average annual Wage and salary income in each year between 2003-04 and 2007-08, recording \$51,387 in 2007-08.
- The vast majority of Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) with the highest average annual growth rate of average Wage and salary income between 2003-04 and 2007-08 were located in Western Australia and Queensland.
- High growth rates do not necessarily equate to high incomes. For example, whilst the SLA of Kojonup (in Western Australia's wheatbelt) experienced an 8% average annual increase in average Wage and salary income between 2003-04 and 2007-08, by the end of the period the average annual income in the area was just \$31,434 (well below the national average of \$43,921).
- Some Statistical Local Areas with high average wage and salary incomes experienced low average annual growth rates, while other regions recorded both low incomes and low growth rates in average Wages and salaries.

Data are available by Local Government Areas, Statistical Local Areas as well as other larger geographies under the Downloads tab.

Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2008-09 (cat. no. 5673.0.55.003) is scheduled for release on 28 July 2011.

## **ESTIMATES OF PERSONAL INCOME FOR SMALL AREAS, TIME SERIES, 2003-04 TO 2007-08**

Released on 14 September 2010, Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2007-08 (cat. no. 6524.0.55.002) presents estimates of personal income at a range of geographic levels. Data are provided on the number of individuals and the amount of income received from Wage and salary, Own unincorporated business, Investment, Superannuation and annuities, and Other income (excluding government pensions and allowances). An estimate of total income (excluding government pensions and allowances) is also provided.

Some key findings include:

- Total income (excluding Government pensions and allowances) grew by an average of 8.7% per annum from 2003-04 to 2007-08. Of the three largest sources of income (Wages and salaries, Investments and Own unincorporated business), Investments had the largest average annual growth rate (14.0%).
- Average Total Income (from all sources excluding Government pensions and allowances) was \$44,402 in Australia in 2007-08; however, over two-thirds of SLAs in Australia recorded average total incomes lower than the national average.

Data are available by Local Government Areas, Statistical Local Areas as well as other larger geographies under the Downloads tab.

Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2008-09 (cat. no. 6524.0.55.002) is scheduled for release on 12 July 2011.

# Population and People



## POPULATION AND PEOPLE

### RECENT RELEASES

Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2009-10  
Deaths, Australia, 2009  
Births, Australia, 2009

### UPCOMING RELEASES

Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2009  
Information Paper: Measuring Net Undercount in the 2011 Population Census, 2011

### REGIONAL POPULATION GROWTH, AUSTRALIA, 2009-10

Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2009-10 (cat. no. 3218.0) was released on 31 March 2011. This product contains estimates of the resident population by Local Government Areas (LGA), Statistical Local Area (SLA), Statistical Division (SD), Statistical Subdivision, Statistical Districts and Remoteness Area as at 30 June 2001 to 2010 based on the 2010 edition of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). Estimates for other geographic areas, such as postal areas, are available on request by contacting the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

Regional Population Growth also provides an overview of regional trends in Australia's population growth. Topics include high growth regions such as capital cities, outer suburbs and coastal areas, population decline, population change by remoteness areas, population density and Australia's centre of population. Further state/territory specific issues are also discussed in separate commentaries which include maps illustrating growth and decline in SLA populations and population density by SLA for capital city SDs.

Some highlights of the data include:

- In each state and territory, population growth in 2009-10 generally continued to be most prominent in inner-city areas, outer suburbs and along the coast, while populations declined in some inland, rural areas.
- The capital city SD with the largest growth was Melbourne, increasing by 79,000 people, followed by Sydney (75,600) and Brisbane (39,000). Perth experienced the fastest population growth rate at 2.3%.
- The three most populous LGAs in Australia, all within Queensland, had three of the four largest increases in population. Brisbane increased by 14,800 people, Gold Coast by 12,900 and Moreton Bay by 11,100.
- The four fastest-growing LGAs in Australia were all located in the outer suburbs of Melbourne, including Wyndham (up 8.8%) and Melton (7.1%).

Population estimates for June 2010 by sex and five year age-groups will be released on 4 August 2011 in Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 3235.0).

From July 2011, the ABS will be replacing the nation's official statistical geography, the ASGC, with the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). The latest release of Regional Population Growth also contains information on the future of sub-state estimates under the ASGS.

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### DEATHS, AUSTRALIA, 2009

Released on 10 November 2010, Deaths, Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 3302.0) presents statistics on deaths and mortality in Australia. Summary statistics for the time period 2004 - 2009 for Statistical Divisions include: Estimated resident population, number of deaths, Indirect standardised death rate and Life expectancy at birth (by sex). Summary statistics for Statistical Local Areas and Local Government Areas in the same period include: Estimated resident population, number of deaths and Indirect standardised death rate.

Key findings in this release include:

- There were 140,800 deaths registered in Australia in 2009, approximately 3,200 (2.2%) fewer than the number registered in 2008 (143,900).
- The standardised death rate (SDR) decreased to 5.7 deaths per 1,000 standard population in 2009, down from 6.1 in 2008.
- SDRs decreased for all states and territories over the last twenty years. The highest SDR in 2009 was in the Northern Territory (7.9 deaths per 1,000 standard population), while the lowest was in the Australian Capital Territory (5.4 deaths per 1,000 standard population).
- There were 1,300 infant deaths (deaths of children less than one year of age) registered in Australia in 2009, which was 2.9% higher than the number registered in 2008.
- In 2009, 2,400 deaths were registered in Australia where the deceased person was identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.

## **BIRTHS, AUSTRALIA, 2009**

Released on 3 November 2010, Births, Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 3301.0) provides data on fertility and live births. Number of births and fertility rates are available at the Local Government Area and Statistical Local Area geographic levels. These data is also available for Statistical Divisions, as well as age specific fertility rates and median age of mother.

Key findings from this release include:

- In 2009, Australia's total fertility rate was 1.90 babies per woman, a small decrease from 1.96 babies per woman in 2008.
- Fertility rates were highest for women aged 30-34 years, recording 124 babies per 1,000 women.
- There were 295,700 births registered in Australia in 2009, approximately 900 (0.3%) fewer than the number registered in 2008 (296,600).
- Total Fertility Rates (TFRs) for all states and territories decreased in 2009, except for Queensland.
- During 2009, 5% of all registered births in Australia had at least one parent who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. The total fertility rates for Indigenous women increased from 2.52 babies per woman in 2008 to 2.57 in 2009.

## **POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX, REGIONS OF AUSTRALIA, 2009**

To be released on 4 August 2011, Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 3235.0) will contain final estimates of the resident populations by age (in five-year age groups up to 85 and over) and sex of areas of Australia as at 30 June 2005 and preliminary estimates as at 30 June 2010, based on Statistical Local Areas (SLAs), Local Government Areas (LGAs), Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs), Statistical Divisions (SDs) and states and territories, according to the 2010 edition of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC).

## **INFORMATION PAPER: MEASURING NET UNDERCOUNT IN THE 2011 POPULATION CENSUS, 2011**

Measuring Net Undercount in the 2011 Population Census (cat. no. 2940.0.55.001), to be released on 6 July 2011, will explain the methodology to be used in conducting the 2011 Census Post Enumeration Survey, including changes since the 2006 survey.

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## INDUSTRY

### RECENT RELEASES

Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia, 2009-10

Agricultural Commodities, Australia

Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Australia, Dec 2010

Experimental Estimates of the Gross Value of Irrigated Agricultural Production, 2000-01 to 2008-09

### UPCOMING RELEASES

ABS Gears up for the 2010-11 Agricultural Census

Motor Vehicle Census, Australia, 31 January 2011

### VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES PRODUCED, AUSTRALIA, 2009-10

Released on 31 May 2011, Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia, 2009-10 (cat. no. 7503.0) contains final estimates of gross and local values of production of major agricultural commodities for all states/territories and Australia.

Data at sub-state geographies (Statistical Division (SD) and Natural Resource Management (NRM) Region) will be released at a later time in this product.

### AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, AUSTRALIA

Released on 11 April 2011, Agricultural Commodities, Australia (cat. no. 7121.0) provides final estimates for the main commodities collected in the 2009-10 Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS). Included are statistics on land use, industry activity, crop and horticultural area and production, and livestock numbers by State. Wheat grain storage and use, grain storage capacity and commodity quantities are also available by State/Territory.

Some of the main findings from this release include:

- Area of farms in Australia fell between 2008-09 and 2009-10, by 3% to 399 million hectares
- Approximately 52% of Australia's total land area was used for agriculture
- Sheep and lamb numbers decreased nationally by 6% from 2008-09 to 68 million in 2009-10, the lowest level since 1905.

Data will be released as data cubes at Natural Resource Management (NRM) region and Statistical Division (SD) geographical levels in June 2011.

### TOURIST ACCOMMODATION, SMALL AREA DATA, AUSTRALIA, DEC 2010

Released on 30 March 2011, Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Australia, Dec 2010 (cat. no. 8635.0.55.002) contains the results from the on-going quarterly Survey of Tourist Accommodation. This release provides information on the supply of, and demand for, tourist accommodation facilities.

Data include number of establishments, capacity and employment for the quarter and occupancy and takings from accommodation for each month; by type of establishment and by star grading. Information is presented for each state/territory and Australia and by Tourism Regions as defined by the respective state/territory tourism commissions. Small area data are available for states and territories in catalogue numbers 8635.1.55.001 through to 8635.8.55.001. Data are available for Statistical Local Areas (SLAs), Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Tourism Regions (TRs). The publication 9503.0.55.001 contains maps

## **EXPERIMENTAL ESTIMATES OF THE GROSS VALUE OF IRRIGATED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, 2000-01 to 2008-09**

Experimental Estimates of the Gross Value of Irrigated Agricultural Production, 2000-01 to 2008-09 (cat. no. 4610.0.55.008) was released on 29 November 2010. Gross Value of Irrigated Agricultural Production (GVIAP) refers to the gross value of agricultural commodities that are produced with the assistance of irrigation. This release builds on the time series presented previously and contains data cubes presenting 2008-09 GVIAP estimates for Australia, the States and Territories and the Murray-Darling Basin, as well as Natural Resource Management (NRM) area estimates for 2005-06 to 2008-09.

Examples of data available in this release include:

- The gross value of production from irrigation was \$11,953 million in 2008-09, which represented 28.6% of the total gross value of agricultural production
- In 2008-09, vegetables (for human consumption and seed) contributed the highest value (\$2,625 million) to total irrigated production, followed by fruit and nuts and dairy production
- The NRM producing the most GVIAP in 2008-09 was Goulburn-Broken, in the MDB in central Victoria
- From 2007-08 to 2008-09, the Wets Tropics NRM in Queensland was the NRM region with the greatest increase in GVIAP (\$359 million to \$503 million).

## **ABS GEARS UP FOR THE 2010-11 AGRICULTURAL CENSUS**

It is clear that the key to planning for the future is to gather all the facts and it's no secret that having good quality data to support your decisions makes all the difference. In the case of agricultural businesses, agricultural industry bodies and government departments, this is an ever present truth. The Agricultural Census, which comes around every five years, addresses the ongoing need for relevant and quality statistics. There is also the fact that the Agricultural Census is the second largest statistical collection undertaken in Australia; topped in size only by the Census of Population and Housing which involves all Australians.

In June 2011, the Agricultural Census forms will go out to around 175,000 farm businesses in approximately 700 Local Government Areas across Australia. The ABS has undertaken a tremendous amount of research and planning to make sure that this year's Agricultural Census produces data which is relevant and timely. Over the past few months in the lead up to the June 2011 despatch of the Agricultural Census forms, the ABS has been busy planning and testing form content, internal systems and data capture processes, while engaging with the agricultural industry through our public relations campaign.

Through feedback from agricultural industry and producers Australia-wide, there have been additions and changes to questions in the 2010-11 Agricultural Census. Such examples are the expansion of crops to include essential oils, a broader understanding of land preparation and maintenance practices and organic and bio-dynamic certification practices. Another change is that the Agricultural Census form will be a nationwide form instead of the state based form used in the 05/06 Agricultural Census. All of the information collected will be used by Commonwealth and State government departments, industry bodies and agricultural businesses to help with decision making, policy formation and planning for the future of the industry.

Without a doubt, the Agricultural Census provides Australia's most detailed picture of what is happening in agriculture at the regional level. It provides vital information on production and water and land management practices throughout Australia, which underpin our understanding of the contribution agriculture makes to the national economy. With the aim of gaining a greater understanding of our agricultural landscape and assisting the Industry through the collection of important data, the 2010-11 Agricultural Census is a big deal and makes an important contribution.

The ABS relies heavily on cooperation and support from the farming community and the Agricultural Census is a great opportunity for those on the land to give Australia a better insight into what is happening in the agricultural sector. By responding to the Agricultural Census, producers are helping themselves, their communities and the national agricultural sector.

Further information about the 2011 Agricultural Census can be found on the [Agricultural Census](#) page of the

ABS website.

## **MOTOR VEHICLE CENSUS, AUSTRALIA, 31 JANUARY 2011**

To be released on 26 July 2011, Motor Vehicle Census, Australia, 31 January 2011 (cat. no. 9309.0) will present statistics compiled from data made available by various state and territory motor vehicle registration authorities. For each state and territory, data will include the number of vehicles on register by type of vehicle (passenger vehicles, light commercial vehicles, rigid trucks, articulated trucks, non-freight carrying trucks, buses and motor cycles), year of manufacture, make, gross vehicle mass and fuel type.

Selected datacubes will be available at postcode level.

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## **Environment and Energy**



### **ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY**

#### **RECENT RELEASES**

Water Use on Australian Farms, 2009-10

Land Account: Great Barrier Reef Region, Experimental Estimates, 2011

#### **WATER USE ON AUSTRALIAN FARMS, 2009-10**

Released on 11 May 2011, Water Use on Australian Farms, 2009-10 (cat. no. 4618.0) presents estimates of agricultural water use (including pastures and crops irrigated), irrigation water sources, irrigation methods, irrigation water management and irrigation expenditure and assets.

Key findings in this release include:

- Australia's total agricultural water use rose slightly (by 1%) from 7,286 gigalitres in 2008-09 to 7,359 gigalitres in 2009-10. In the same period, increased water use in New South Wales (up by 5%) and Victoria (up by 23%) was partially balanced by decreased water use in Queensland (down by 11%) and South Australia (down by 14%).
- Of the 399 million hectares of agricultural land in Australia in 2009-10, less than 1% was irrigated. However, 30% of all agricultural businesses undertook irrigation during 2009-10.
- The amount of irrigation water used by Australia's 41,000 irrigating agricultural businesses increased slightly from 2008-09 to 2009-10, by 1% to 6,956 gigalitres.
- Groundwater was the major source of agricultural water in South Australia (60%), Western Australia (43%), and Northern Territory (68%). Water supplied by government or private irrigation schemes was the main source of agricultural water in New South Wales (35%), Victoria (59%) and Queensland (41%) while in Tasmania, the main source was surface water (71%).

Estimates are presented at Australia, State/Territory and Murrumbidgee-Darling Basin (MDB) and non-MDB levels. Data for a range of sub-state geographic levels, including Natural Resource Management (NRM) regions, Statistical Divisions (SD) and Murrumbidgee-Darling Basin (MDB) will be released in July 2011.

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#### **LAND ACCOUNT: GREAT BARRIER REEF REGION, EXPERIMENTAL ESTIMATES, 2011**

On 28 February the ABS released Land Account: Great Barrier Reef Region, Experimental Estimates, 2011 (cat. no. 4609.0.55.001).

This release provides integrated social, economic and environment data with spatial location information. Information for the geographic areas released range from small city blocks to sparse agricultural areas,

remote communities and Natural Resource Management regions. In this format, the information could be viewed at the community level or brought together for those users wishing to look at larger spatial areas. The release did not require any new statistical collections to be conducted. It was compiled from existing data sources available from Commonwealth and State Government Agencies demonstrating what can be achieved through information sharing – the concept of “create once, use many times”.

The collaboration between agencies in providing information for this release demonstrates the value of the National Statistical Service in building a rich statistical picture for a better informed Australia.

A Google Earth® interface presents a fly over view of the Great Barrier Reef catchment regions, which are divided up into 3,005 small statistical areas. Data windows present more than 70 attributes for each of these small land areas, across the themes:

- Boundary information
- Population and business counts
- Rateable value and land use
- Dynamic land cover
- Fire, temperature and rainfall

The ESRI® Geodatabase and Mapinfo® versions can be downloaded from the ABS web site and used as a socio-economic layer in a Geographical Information System (GIS).

The release is the result of collaborative work from a number of government departments to provide, in the one product, a range of available information on land use, land value and land cover. It is hoped this data set will inform debate on a wide range of issues including population settlement, measuring the health of the environment, the sustainable production of goods and services and natural disaster management.

Data are available at NRM and SA1 regional levels. For a sample of the output at the SA1 level, go to the Downloads tab in the release using the link above.

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## Other News and Contacts



### OTHER NEWS AND CONTACTS

Local Government and ABS, September 2011  
Australian Community Indicators Network  
Updated Regional @ a Glance web pages  
Glossary of Statistical Geography Terminology  
About us / Contact us  
How to subscribe

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ABS, SEPTEMBER 2011

If you are interested in reading more about regional statistics, you might like to read the Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre's bi-annual newsletter, Local Government and ABS. The newsletter has a focus on finding and using data released by the ABS at local government level.

For example, the March 2011 issue of Local Government and ABS included case studies on the Local Government Areas of Mornington Peninsula and Broken Hill, illustrating how Wage and salary and National Regional Profile data can be analysed. The newsletter also included information regarding the impact that the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) will have on data for Local Government Areas, and information about Local Government Finance data that the ABS collects.

The next issue, Local Government and ABS, September 2011 (cat. no. 1376.0) is scheduled to be released on 21 September, 2011 and will highlight further recent and upcoming releases of interest to local government.



## AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY INDICATORS NETWORK

In the past decade there has been strong and growing interest in community indicators across governments and communities at all levels. Given this growing interest in community indicators, the Australian Community Indicators Network (ACIN) has been established by a group of professionals working in this field. The Australian Community Indicators Network aims to assist people using or developing community indicators to share ideas and information, and to foster collaboration. The Network aspires to build a national dialogue and knowledge base across community indicator policy, research and practice. Further details, including how to become a member, can be found on the ACIN website.

In May 2011, the ACIN held its first event, a video seminar with guest speaker Associate Professor Meg Holden presenting on Best Practice and Emerging Principles in the Community Indicators Movement. A recording of the seminar can be found on the NSS website.

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## UPDATED REGIONAL @ A GLANCE WEB PAGES

In April 2011, the ABS released updated 'Regional @ a Glance' pages. These pages are targeted at users of data for regions below state and territory level. This includes urban, rural, metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas, as well as capital cities.

The entry page provides a number of access points to a variety of information on regional statistics.

This includes a Capital Cities page that provides key statistics for Australian capital cities through a map of Australia, using data from the National Regional Profile.

Data items included are:

- Estimated Resident Population
- Unemployment rate
- Building Approvals: Total dwelling units approved
- Average Wage and salary income
- Persons 15 years and over with post-school qualifications
- Access to internet at home - occupied private dwellings
- Registered Motor Vehicles per 1,000 Population
- Tourist Accommodation - Hotels, Motels, Serviced Apartments 5 or more rooms

There is also a Local Government Areas page which assists users who are looking for data for their Local Government Area (LGA). It provides links to data that can be used to answer basic social and economic questions on a Local Government Area.

Information on other regions, what's new and regional statistics help can also be found on the Regional @ a Glance page.

## GLOSSARY OF STATISTICAL GEOGRAPHY TERMINOLOGY

The ABS released the Glossary of Statistical Geography Terminology, 2011 (cat. no. 1217.0.55.001) on 4 March, 2011. The glossary contains brief explanations and definitions of various geographical terms and classifications used in ABS products, such as those from the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) and the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). The definitions contained in the Glossary relate to statistics with a 'where' dimension.


## ABOUT US/CONTACT US

'What's New in Regional Statistics' is produced by the Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre of the ABS. This newsletter has been prepared as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Regional Statistics Program, to improve the availability of regional and small area data by leading the development of regional statistics and co-ordinating their dissemination. More information is available on the [ABS Regional Statistics theme page](#).

Please send your comments or queries regarding this newsletter to [regional.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:regional.statistics@abs.gov.au) or telephone (08) 8237 7350.

If you would like further information or data, please contact the **National Information and Referral Service** on 1300 135 070 or e-mail [client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au).

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## About this Release

'What's New in Regional Statistics' is an annual newsletter about regional and small area statistics. It includes topical articles and reviews of relevant ABS publications. 'What's New in Regional Statistics' highlights developments in statistics relevant to regions, including metropolitan, urban, non-urban and rural areas, and other information of likely interest to researchers, policy makers and other users of small area data.

Interested readers are invited to visit the Regional theme page on the ABS website for links to other related information.

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